



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 24 March 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Chattanooga Times/Free Press reports the Alabama National Guard troops were activated Wednesday to help secure TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, Alabama. (See item [2](#))
- The Government Accounting Office has released report GAO-03-570T, Testimony before the Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives; Department of Energy: Statue of Contract and Project Management Reforms. (See item [5](#))
- The New York Times reports San Francisco Bay Area's San Mateo Bridge is a possible terror target for al Qaeda operatives. (See item [12](#))
- The Times Picayune reports increased security around the New Orleans metro area with ferry traffic restricted, bridge patrols increased, and National Guard troops called in to stand guard at the Waterford nuclear power plant. (See item [13](#))
- SecurityFocus reports hackers claim to have compromised a computer at the National Security Agency — not gaining access to highly-classified documents but rather biographies of agency personnel, and a handful of routine, correspondences between NSA spokespersons and media outlets. (See item [31](#))

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *March 22, New York Times* — **Nigerian strife is latest threat to flow of oil .** Though oil prices fell to a three-month low yesterday as United States-led forces advanced into Iraq, **a new threat to supplies is building in West Africa: Ethnic conflict has begun to limit oil shipments from Nigeria and could complicate American refiners' efforts to produce more gasoline for the spring and summer driving season.** Royal Dutch/Shell, the largest oil producer in Nigeria, invoked "force majeure" this afternoon, effectively warning customers that events outside the company's control could delay oil deliveries by up to two weeks from its Bonny and Forcados terminals. ChevronTexaco made a similar announcement on Thursday, though the company did not specify the potential duration of the delays from its Escravos terminal. **In making the announcements, officials of both companies sought to play down the effect of the violence in the oil-rich, but volatile, Niger Delta, emphasizing that production continued in other parts of the area. Both companies have evacuated their employees from their facilities in the delta, however.** Simon Buerk, a Shell spokesman in London, said that the company had reduced production by 176,000 barrels of oil a day because of the clashes in the delta. Normally, Shell pumps an average of about 800,000 barrels a day from Nigeria. ChevronTexaco, whose average production hovers around 460,000 to 470,000 barrels a day, has lost about 140,000 barrels a day, according to Sola Omole, a company spokesman in Lagos. **Nigeria was the fifth-largest exporter of oil to the United States in 2002, according to the Energy Information Administration, the analytical arm of the Energy Department.** While civil strife frequently disrupts exports from Nigeria, some oil industry analysts and traders cautioned that with so many problems bedeviling world oil markets, a prolonged reduction in Nigerian oil shipments could send prices higher once again. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/22/business/worldbusiness/22OIL.html>
2. *March 20, Chattanooga Times/Free Press* — **National Guard troops patrol TVA nuclear plant. For the first time ever, National Guard troops are patrolling a TVA nuclear plant. Alabama National Guard troops were activated Wednesday to help secure the Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant near Athens, AL.** "The governor ordered the National Guard to provide security at various locations in Alabama after the terror alert was raised this week," said Lt. Col. Robert Horton of the state military office in Alabama. "We're not in a first response mode, but we are there to augment other security forces." **Horton said the federal Office of Homeland Security suggested the National Guard troops be used to help secure nuclear power plants against a possible terrorist attack.** But Tennessee officials said Wednesday they have no plans for similar National Guard assistance at TVA's nuclear plants in Tennessee. The Tennessee Valley Authority operates the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant near Soddy-Daisy and the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant near Spring City along with the Browns Ferry plant in Alabama. Officials with the federal utility maintain that their nuclear plants are adequately protected by TVA and contract security forces. **TVA uses its own police force, nuclear security officers and contract personnel hired through Pinkerton Government Security to protect nuclear plants and other facilities.** Since the Sept. 11 attacks in 2001, TVA has added extra armed patrols and security equipment at its nuclear plants and restricted access to plant parking lots and perimeter properties. Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3723969

3.

March 20, BBC — **Russian nuclear generator back on stream after transformer fault.** The second unit of the Kola nuclear power plant, Murmansk Region, which was shut down by its automatic safety system on Wednesday [19 March], has been connected to the power grid again, sources in the Rosenergoatom concern told Interfax. It was reported earlier that the unit had been shut down because of a break in the transformer stub due to storm winds, which reached 36 metres per second at the nuclear power plant area. "The transformer stub has been repaired," the concern said. The second and third units of the nuclear power plant are now functioning. Their overall production is 810 MW. The first and fourth units are under scheduled repairs. **"There have been no deviations from the safe operation of the Kola nuclear power plant," sources in Rosenergoatom said.** The Kola nuclear power plant has four units with VVER-440 [440- MW pressurized water] reactors.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3724168

4. *March 20, Waterbury Republican-American, (CN)* — **Connecticut electric bills to reflect changes in wholesale power market rules.** A change in the way wholesale power is bought and sold in New England could mean residential electric customers in Connecticut will see a slight jump in their electric bills as early as May, according to officials with Connecticut's largest electric utility. **The new method, called "standard market design," changes the way energy costs, including costs associated with congestion in the electric transmission system, are paid for by electric users. The March 1 change means customers in each of eight zones are responsible for congestion costs in that particular zone.** Previously, those costs were spread across New England. Connecticut, which has the most severe congestion in New England, is considered its own zone under the new system. That means Connecticut customers must pick up the state's share of congestion costs. Those costs are expected to run between \$50 million and \$300 million in 2003 for all of New England, said Richard A. Soderman, director of regulatory planning with the Berlin-based Northeast Utilities System. Soderman said it's too soon to estimate how much Connecticut's "congestion costs" might total. **"The majority of the congestion is being created in Connecticut," most notably in southwest Connecticut, Soderman said. "There, we don't have enough generation. We don't have enough transmission.**

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3724020

5. *March 20, Government Accounting Office* — **Report GAO-03-570T. Department of Energy: Statue of Contract and Project Management Reforms.** The Government Accounting Office has released report GAO-03-570T, Testimony before the Committee on Government Reform, House of Representatives: Department of Energy: Statue of contract and Project Management Reforms. **The testimony focused on describing the Department of Energy's (DOE) progress in implementing contracting and project management reforms, assessing the extent to which these reforms have resulted in improved contractor performance, and providing observations on DOE's latest improvement efforts.** Because DOE spends about 90 percent of its annual budget on contracts, DOE's ability to direct, oversee, and hold accountable its contractors is crucial for mission success and overall effectiveness. **The report notes that much improvement has been achieved, yet numerous projects continue to have performance problems.** Since the mid-1990s, DOE has made progress in its efforts to improve both its contracting practices and its management of projects, the but department continues to face probelms in implementing these reforms.

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-03-570T>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *March 21, Government Executive* — **Military prepares for terrorist attacks at home.** As the military campaign to topple the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein unfolds in the Middle East, military officials in southern Virginia and Colorado are developing plans for a different sort of campaign—here at home, in response to attacks on U.S. soil. **Joint Force Headquarters–Homeland Security is the military unit responsible for providing military assistance to civil authorities and planning land and maritime military operations for the continental United States. The unit is part of Northern Command, the command-and-control organization established by the Defense Department last October at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, CO, to consolidate and oversee military operations in the continental United States. The command has few permanently assigned forces; when troops are required, they are assigned for specific operations.** "Basically there are two elements to our mission. The first is the standard unified combatant commanders' statement: Deter, prevent and defeat threats and aggression aimed at the United States, its territories and interests in our area of responsibility," said Air Force Col. Robert J. Hinger, chief of staff for Joint Force Headquarters–Homeland Security. "What is unique is that when directed by the president or the secretary of Defense, we provide military assistance to civil authorities." Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0303/032103kp1.htm>

7. *March 21, St. Louis Post–Dispatch* — **Defense mapping center boosts security measures.** Security is being stepped up at the defense mapping center in Arnold, MO, a government facility with a major role to play in the war with Iraq. The National Imagery and Mapping Agency is responsible for drafting and distributing the maps, satellite imagery and other data used by soldiers in the field as well as military commanders and policy-makers in Washington. It's a sensitive and highly important function, and agency officials say they are going to great lengths to safeguard the operation. **"We routinely have security anyway at our facilities – we obviously have our perimeters secured at all times and guards and a security system,"** spokesman Jim Mohan said. **"But as threat levels go up, NIMA responds by increasing security."** Mohan said he couldn't reveal what new measures are being taken. NIMA operates two area facilities: a location on Second Street near downtown St. Louis, where cartographers and others produce maps and other data, and a major printing and distribution center on Vogel Road in Arnold. Source: <http://www.stltoday.com/stltoday/news/stories.nsf/News/1B2CC73869155E0586256CF000208100?OpenDocument+mapping+center+boosts+security+measures>

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *March 22, Washington Post* — **Federal agents arrest nine in moves against possible terrorist funding.** Federal agents assigned to a task force investigating terrorist financing have arrested nine people and executed nine search warrants over the last three days in an effort to choke off the movement of undeclared funds from the United States to foreign countries. **Officials with the interagency task force, Operation Green Quest, did not allege that any of the people charged or investigated are terrorists, but said they fear the funds they transferred overseas could be used by terrorist groups there.** On Thursday, agents from the FBI and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested four people and seized \$71,000 in an investigation of a Pakistani money remittance business in New York. **The arrests, as well as the execution of a search warrant, resulted from an 18-month undercover investigation, which showed that a company called Manhattan Foreign Exchange had moved more than \$33 million to Pakistan over three years in allegedly illegal transactions.** In Los Angeles, Green Quest agents arrested Mahmoud Harkous and executed search warrants on his tobacco shop in connection with allegations that he illegally structured financial deals to evade reporting requirements. In Minneapolis, agents arrested four people on charges of structuring fraudulent financial deals worth \$2 million, mostly involving unpaid tobacco taxes, and executed search warrants on five tobacco shops. Among other things, they were charged with smuggling hundreds of thousands of dollars in financial instruments to Lebanon and Jordan. In Newark, Customs agents seized \$48,000 from two bank accounts that were the source of numerous financial transactions that involved sending bulk currency by private express parcel to people in Yemen.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A7530-2003Mar2_1.html
9. *March 21, Washington Post* — **U.S. seizes \$1.4 billion in frozen Iraqi assets. President Bush ordered the Treasury Department on Thursday to seize more than \$1.4 billion in Iraqi government money frozen in U.S. banks since 1990.** The money, plus an additional \$600 million frozen by Britain and 10 other countries, will be used to help defray the costs of rebuilding Iraq after Saddam Hussein's regime is toppled, Treasury Secretary John W. Snow said in announcing Bush's order. Snow said the United States has also asked other countries to freeze Iraqi assets so they can be used to help with the rebuilding. **And he said Treasury has launched "a worldwide hunt" for an estimated \$6 billion the United States believes Hussein, his family and aides obtained through kickbacks and illegal oil sales and have stashed in concealed accounts. This money would also be used for humanitarian aid in a post-Hussein Iraq.** "We call upon all nations to join us and to step forward to fulfill their obligations for the benefit of the Iraqi people," Snow said.
Source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A664-2003Mar20_.html
10. *March 21, New York Times* — **Amid tight security, market extends rally.** On Wall Street, there were some signs of heightened security. Some investment firms and the major stock markets said that they had long been well prepared, with backup trading floors and communications networks. For security reasons, spokesmen for the markets and the firms were reluctant to discuss preparations. **Measures of caution were apparent yesterday at the Deutsche Bank headquarters in Midtown Manhattan and at the headquarters of J. P. Morgan Chase on Park Avenue. At Deutsche Bank, guards were checking identification cards and examining bags and briefcases of people entering the building. At J. P. Morgan**

Chase, everyone was funneled through one entrance, which was covered by a tent. Identification cards were checked visually and electronically before entry, again visually once inside, and visually and electronically one more time before anyone entered the elevators. Deutsche Bank, however, is going ahead with a program it is sponsoring at the Inter-American Development Bank meeting in Milan, and will send executives from New York to attend, said Rohini Pragasam, a bank spokeswoman. J. P. Morgan said its executives would attend as well. **The New York Stock Exchange, the Nasdaq Stock Market and the American Stock Exchange have said that they have the backup facilities to prevent major disruptions in trading.** Though they generally declined to be more specific, the New York Exchange said that it could begin trading within a day in backup trading facilities if its Wall Street trading floor were not usable.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/21/business/21STOX.html>

11. *March 21, Associated Press* — Businessman says no transferred money went to terrorism.

A Yemeni-American civic leader charged with running an illegal money transferring business said he is confident none of the money sent to Yemen went toward terrorist activities.

Mohamed Albanna, after appearing in U.S. District Court for a scheduling hearing Thursday, said he could provide receipts that would prove the money transfers were received only by the family members for whom they were intended. Albanna, along with a nephew and brother, were arrested in December during raids at the family's Buffalo wholesale cigarette and candy business and their homes in nearby Lackawanna. **They were indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge they sent more than \$480,000 to Yemen without a license to operate a money transferring business, which is required by state law.** Federal prosecutors also said the business was not registered with the U.S. Department of Treasury as required by federal law.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/local/wire/ny-bc-ny--attacks-lackawann0320mar20.0.2377884.story?coll=ny-ap-regional-wire>

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Transportation Sector

12. *March 23, New York Times* — San Francisco's prosaic San Mateo Bridge is a possible terror target. When most people think of archetypal San Francisco Bay Area bridges, their thoughts turn to postcard views of the Golden Gate Bridge looming in the fog. So it was with some shock and surprise that residents and commuters in this suburban Silicon Valley community reacted to the news that the prosaic **San Mateo Bridge was among al Qaeda's possible targets, according to information provided to interrogators by Khalid Shaikh Mohammed,** the senior terrorist leader who was captured this month in Rawalpindi, Pakistan. Probably the least captivating and memorable of the Bay Area's bridges, the 6.8-mile link between Hayward in the East Bay and Foster City and San Mateo on the Peninsula does not possess powerful symbolism here beyond its reputation as a traffic nightmare. **The low-slung ribbon of asphalt is most significant for the tremendous surge of traffic it had over the last two decades, which nearly doubled to 80,000 cars a day from 42,000,** a reflection of the growth of Silicon Valley. The Bay Bridge, connecting Oakland and San Francisco, and the Golden Gate, connecting San Francisco and Marin County, draw far more traffic — 280,000 and 160,000 cars a day, respectively. **Skimming the bay nearly at sea gull level, most of the**

bridge hovers a mere 10 to 12 feet above the water, so low that fishermen tie their boats to the bridge and throw out a line. Dale Miller, 67, a retired construction worker in Foster City, theorized that **the bridge's length and proximity to the water could make it more difficult to secure.** "It would be easy to access in a small craft," he said. "An attack would cut off a major shipping lane. The bridge is practically water level." **The overlooked geography of the ordinary could be the next terrorist frontier, some people said.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/23/international/worldspecial/23BRID.html?tnemail1>

13. *March 21, Times Picayune* — **In New Orleans, two ferries close to cars; bridge patrols stepped up.** Heightened security was apparent around the New Orleans metro area Thursday with ferry traffic restricted, bridge patrols increased and National Guard troops called in to stand guard at the Waterford 3 nuclear power plant. **Motorists were turned away at two New Orleans ferries crossing the Mississippi River, at Canal Street and Jackson Avenue, while vehicles using the Chalmette–Lower Algiers ferry were searched before drivers were allowed aboard.** All three ferried pedestrians as usual. Alan Levasseur, executive director of the Crescent City Connection bridges and the three ferries, said the Coast Guard "directed us, in the event of hostilities . . . to begin searching all vehicles boarding ferries." Because there isn't enough personnel to search vehicles on all three boats, Levasseur said, vehicles were permitted on only the most heavily used ferry, between Algiers and Chalmette, which typically has more than 3,000 vehicles per day. **Security also is heightened on bridge spans, Levasseur said.** "We're doing extra patrols on the bridge. We're not allowing stopped or abandoned vehicles to remain on the bridge." **Law enforcement agencies also increased patrols around port facilities, oil refineries and water plants in the New Orleans area.** The Louisiana–based pilots who are paid to board ships and guide them up and down the Mississippi River have another security measure: a code word they can use to alert other pilots of dangers on foreign ships. The other pilots can relay information to the Coast Guard. River pilots often are the only U.S. presence on a foreign–flagged ship, said A.J. Gibbs, chairman of the Louisiana River Pilots Association and president of the Crescent River Port Pilots Association.

Source: <http://www.nola.com/news/t-p/frontpage/index.ssf?/base/news-0/1048231605188830.xml>

14. *March 21, New York Times* — **Airlines, already ailing, cut flights.** With the start of the second Persian Gulf war, **airlines around the world — already battered by the industry's worst downturn — cut back even more on their schedules Thursday, especially on flights to the Middle East.** Some carriers also said they would have to cut costs by laying off workers or reducing pay. Airlines said bookings had already fallen sharply compared with those at this time last year. **A lawyer for US Airways, which hopes to emerge from bankruptcy protection in 10 days, told a judge yesterday that bookings had dropped by 20 percent in the last week.** In total, more than a dozen airlines have cut their schedules since Monday night, when President Bush issued a 48–hour ultimatum to Saddam Hussein to leave Iraq. The opening salvo against Baghdad on Wednesday night sent airline planners back to their computers, scrutinizing where passenger bookings had dipped and which flights could be cut. **The International Air Transport Association said bookings would fall about 10 percent now that the war had started.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/21/business/21AIR.html>

15. *March 21, Baltimore Sun* — **In Baltimore, first casualty of war is traffic.** Choke points on I-83, I-95 at Caton Avenue add delays to commutes. **Commuters are adjusting to a sort of wartime traffic flow in the name of homeland security, measures that are snarling traffic at truck inspection points and near the makeshift buttress of concrete barriers and dump trucks parked on Interstate 83 Thursday to protect Baltimore's Emergency Operations Center.** Overhead interstate highway signs throughout the state warned drivers of the "heightened state of Homeland Security," and a swarm of **police officers made random checks on thousands of trucks and tractor-trailers before allowing them to pass through tunnels or cross major bridges.** Precautions are being taken everywhere. Law enforcement agencies have increased patrols of major thoroughfares; the U.S. Coast Guard added restrictions on the Chesapeake Bay; the Maryland State Police lengthened daily shifts.
Source: <http://www.sunspot.net/news/local/bal-te.md.inspect21mar21.0.2076574.story?coll=bal%2Dlocal%2Dheadlines>
16. *March 20, Associated Press* — **Airlines urged on anti-missile devices. The government should pay to equip at least some commercial airliners with anti-missile devices, two House members said Thursday.** Rep. John Mica said he would try to pass **legislation over the next 90 days to pay for research and development and for outfitting some planes with technology to thwart a missile attack. Mica, R-FL, put the cost of the equipment at \$1 million per plane.** The threat posed to commercial planes was driven home in November when terrorists fired two SA-7 missiles that narrowly missed an Israeli passenger jet after it took off from Mombasa, Kenya. Officials concluded that al-Qaeda probably was behind the attack, which coincided with a bomb blast at a nearby hotel. **Though no specific threats involving the portable missiles have been identified, there is concern that such weapons could be smuggled into the United States and used against aircraft.** Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-CA, and Rep. Steve Israel, D-NY, **introduced legislation this year to require on-board missile defense systems on all 6,800 planes in the U.S. commercial fleet. Boxer testified the bill would cost as much as \$10 billion.** There are several kinds of defense systems that divert or confuse the missile: small decoy flares, infrared jammer devices, high-powered lasers, chaff or packets of heated foil and towed decoy targets.
Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A64218-2003Mar 20.html>
17. *March 20, U.S. Coast Guard* — **U.S. Coast Guard increases patrols for Operation Liberty Shield.** The U.S. Coast Guard is increasing patrols while maintaining the highest level of vigilance in concurrence with the President's directive – raising the national threat level from Yellow (Elevated) to Orange (High) and with the start of Operation Liberty Shield. The Coast Guard is taking appropriate security measures consistent with the change in the Homeland Security Advisory System threat level. Mariners can expect to see a greater Coast Guard presence on the water and in the air. Boaters should be prepared to show picture identification and may be questioned about their activity, particularly if they are operating or loitering in an area that might be of concern. Under Operation Liberty Shield, boaters should: **be aware of existing security zones and Restricted Navigation Areas (RNA); stay at least 100 yards clear of any Navy vessel and maintain slow speed and comply with directions when within 500 yards of any Navy ship; monitor VHF-FM channel 16 for CG boating safety and security broadcasted information; avoid areas and activities that might be perceived as threatening or suspicious; be alert and report any suspicious or unusual activity to the Coast Guard or local law enforcement.** The National Response Center Terrorism Hotline is:

1-800-424-8802.

Source: <http://www.uscg.mil/d7/d7dpa/Releases/m/Mar03.htm#m0304>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

18. *March 23, New York Times* — **Concerns about commerce as borders tighten.** Big commercial traffic jams subsided over the last two days after snarling United States border crossings with Canada and Mexico much of the week as security and law enforcement officers of the three countries raised their guard against possible terrorist infiltrators. **Lines of southbound trucks full of Canadian auto parts, paper products and other merchandise began to grow Tuesday night to two hours — four times the normal average — at the Ambassador Bridge between Detroit and Windsor, the most crucial point in a trade relationship valued at \$1.3 billion a day for both countries.** Delays of up to five hours were reported at several other border points in Ontario and British Columbia earlier in the week. But Canadian and American customs agents and other law enforcement officials scrambled to alleviate the waits. **Canada has agreed to step up random searches of vehicles by customs agents while the police have set up roadblocks on several feeder roads near the borders with New York and Michigan.** Canadian officials said they had agreed to a request by Attorney General John Ashcroft to increase the number of Canadian Security Intelligence Service agents along the border. With the United States under an orange alert, Mexican officials also reported increased waiting times at the border with the United States, though nothing that seriously threatened the \$250 billion a year in border trade.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/23/international/worldspecial/23CANA.html>

19. *March 20, U.S. Customs and Border Protection* — **Japan implements the Container Security Initiative and begins to target and pre-screen cargo destined for U.S.** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner Robert C. Bonner and Japanese Customs and Tariff Bureau announced today that **the Container Security Initiative (CSI) is expected to be operational at the port of Yokohama for cargo containers destined for U.S. ports on March 24.** The port of Yokohama is the 10th CSI port to become operational. **As part of the CSI program, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has deployed a small team of 4 CBP officers stationed at the port of Yokohama to work targeting cargo containers destined for the United States.** Japanese Customs officials, working with CBP officers, will be responsible for screening any containers identified as a potential terrorist risk. "CSI is also reciprocal. CBP offers CSI-participating countries the opportunity to send their customs officers to our major ports to target cargo that is exported to their country via ocean containers," Commissioner Bonner said. **"CBP will also share its intelligence and pre-arrival information on a bilateral basis with its CSI partners.** Sharing of information is intended to be a reciprocal process." **Japanese customs personnel will be stationed at the port of Los Angeles/Long Beach on April 7, 2003, targeting sea containers destined for Japan.**

Source: http://www.customs.gov/xp/cgov/newsroom/press_releases/03202_003.xml

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Agriculture Sector

20. *March 21, Agricultural Research Service* — **New technology for detecting turkey respiratory virus now available.** Agricultural Research Service scientists have identified an important gene sequence that can help identify and differentiate avian metapneumovirus. This organism is responsible for turkey rhinotracheitis, an upper respiratory illness. Microbiologists Bruce Seal and Rene Alvarez deciphered a segment of the virus' genetic sequence. The sequence, previously unrecorded in the genetic databases, could be used to develop a diagnostic detection kit. Avian metapneumovirus can be found in turkey and chicken flocks throughout the world, but is frequently reported in turkeys in Minnesota and Europe. The virus is also associated with swollen head syndrome and infectious respiratory disease in chickens outside of the United States. **Although not very virulent by itself, avian metapneumovirus, in combination with other pathogens or Newcastle disease vaccines, can cause severe respiratory disease and weight loss in poultry. Early detection of the metapneumovirus may allow better timing of Newcastle disease virus vaccination to prevent this complication.**

Source: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2003/030321.htm>

21. *March 21, Associated Press* — **Farmers, ranchers are mindful of new danger.** Cattle feedlot owners in Texas are wary, posting signs telling visitors to check in at the front office. They keep an eye on vehicles they've never seen before, not only on their property, but also on surrounding properties. It's part of the agriculture industry's efforts to protect itself from a possible terrorist attack. **As the United States began military strikes on Iraq, farmers and ranchers said they are being vigilant against possible threats to their farms and livestock.** "You'll see the producers in Texas know who to contact if something should arise. In the past, we never really did think about that," said Blake Bennett, a Dallas-based extension economist with the Texas Cooperative Extension. "The producers know any suspicious activity they see, to contact their law enforcement. They're very mindful of their property," he said. **Bennett said many producers also are keeping a better inventory of chemicals on their property, keeping them locked up instead of simply placing them in storage closets. Farmers and ranchers typically check their property daily, so any act of intentional sabotage should be spotted quickly, Bennett said. He pointed out, however, that it's harder to spot disease in crops than it is in livestock.**

Source: http://www.austin360.com/statesman/editions/today/metro_stat e_20.html

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

22. *March 21, World Health Organization* — **Water safety plans of WHO.** The current revision of the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality aims to

supplement drinking–water product control with risk assessment and quality management strategies focusing on process control. This approach is called "Water Safety Plan". It includes elements of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), widely used in food industry. In some countries this new development is already being implemented in the drinking–water supply chain from storage to consumer, both in regulatory frameworks and upon initiative of individual water suppliers. **Sector discussion of these concepts and of experiences with their implementation is needed.** The international conference in Berlin, from April 28 to April 30, 2003, aims to promote the understanding of currently available approaches to risk management, particularly of approaches using elements of HACCP. A further aim is the exchange of current experience with this approach in relation to other quality management systems applied to secure drinking–water safety.

Source: <http://www.umweltbundesamt.de/water-safety/>

23. *March 21, Arizona Republic* — **Phoenix enacts plans to save water. Phoenix, AZ expects to save more than 166 million gallons of water this year.** City departments were ordered to cut their water use by 5 percent last fall after Salt River Project announced it would reduce its water deliveries by one–third because of the drought. The city has asked residents to cut their water consumption as well, but on a voluntary basis. In all, 12 city departments have devised plans to cut water use. **Among steps used: The city shut off fountains and misting systems, began installing more efficient plumbing fixtures, stepped up efforts to find and repair leaks, and started using only drought–tolerant plants when replacing shrubs and trees.** Less visibly, the city looked for more efficient ways to operate cooling towers, adjusted irrigation equipment to take advantage of new technology, and changed the way waterlines are flushed.

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/0321_phxwater21.html

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Public Health Sector

24. *March 21, Channel News Asia* — **32 more victims infected with SARS in Hong Kong.** The Hong Kong government says it has contained severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) in the territory, but 32 more people have fallen victim to the deadly virus. The suspension of accident and emergency services at Hong Kong's Prince of Wales Hospital continues for another week. The decision came after eight more healthcare personnel there fell sick with atypical pneumonia. This brings the total number struck by the virus to 197. **"We've contained the spread among primary contacts, trying to contain secondary contacts,"** said Yeoh Eng–kiong, Hong Kong's secretary for health, welfare, and food. **One school on Hong Kong island has sent a student to hospital as she showed flu–like symptoms. It was later found that her mother was also sick with atypical pneumonia. Six students from four other schools have been hospitalized.**

Source: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/eastasia/view/35400/1/.html>

25. *March 20, Department of Health and Human Services* — **HHS announces bioterrorism aid for states. Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy G. Thompson Thursday announced \$1.4 billion to be provided to states this year to help them enhance preparations against terrorism or other public health emergencies.** At the same time, he announced special provisions that would allow states to obtain up to 20 percent of their 2003

funding immediately in order to support current activities, including smallpox vaccination for selected health workers and emergency responders. **Part of the funding (\$870 million) supports enhancement of states' public health agencies, and the rest (\$498 million) is provided to states to support hospital preparedness for possible bioterror or other mass casualty events.** The funding is part of a total of about \$3.5 billion in HHS funding this year for bioterrorism preparedness, including research into potential bioterror disease agents and potential treatments and vaccines. The fiscal year 2003 funding is up from about \$1.8 billion for these activities in 2002.

Source: <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2003pres/20030320.html>

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Government Sector

26. *March 21, Washington Times* — **Homeland budget, progress being scrutinized.** Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge yesterday presented his 2004 funding request to Congress and was warned by both sides of the aisle that spending and the new department's progress will be closely scrutinized. **Ridge asked for \$36.2 billion and was told by the chairman of the new House subcommittee with jurisdiction to set specific goals and outcomes so the new department's performance can be judged by Congress. The overall budget request is nearly 8 percent higher than the current year and sets aside \$3.5 billion for first responders at the local and state level.** The president's budget also contains \$18.1 billion for border and transportation security, \$829 million for information analysis and infrastructure protection, \$809 million for science and technology, \$6.8 billion for the Coast Guard, \$1.3 billion for the Secret Service, and \$1.8 billion for the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/national/20030321-24174769.ht m>

27. *March 20, The White House* — **Personnel announcement – Department of Homeland Security. The President intends to nominate Frank Libutti of New York, to be Under Secretary for Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security.** Libutti currently serves as the New York City Police Department's Deputy Commissioner of Counter Terrorism. He previously served as Special Assistant for Homeland Security at the Department of Defense. **A retired Lieutenant General in the United States Marine Corps, he was honored with several personal decorations during his 35-year military career.** His honors include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star Medal, the Defense Superior Service Medal, as well as a Purple Heart. Libutti is a graduate of The Citadel.

Source: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030320-19. html>

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *March 23, Los Angeles Times* — **Agencies alter tactics for double-bomb threats.** The terrorist tactic of detonating one bomb, then a second more powerful explosive is forcing local

emergency personnel to rethink the way they would manage such incidents. The drill for so-called "first responders" has been to race to the bombed site to rescue the injured. But conventional strategies of swarming a scene with police, paramedics and firefighters are now being revised amid heightened awareness of the possibility of secondary threats. **Long a staple of terrorists around the globe, the double-bomb scenario is most likely to face police and fire agencies as the war in Iraq escalates and the nation ratchets up its homeland-security defenses, authorities say. Recent bombings in Kabul, Afghanistan, and Bali, Indonesia, have underscored a need for new procedures to protect victims and rescuers. In Southern California, the handling of the July 4 shooting at Los Angeles International Airport exposed potential vulnerabilities.** "This is becoming a hot-button issue," said John Miller, commanding officer of the Los Angeles Police Department's Counter-Terrorism Bureau. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-tactics23mar23.1.7212383.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dcalifornia>

29. *March 21, Los Angeles Times* — **All quiet in Los Angeles as disaster centers display readiness.** On the first full day of war in Iraq, Los Angeles city officials gathered Thursday in a bunker-like command center deep beneath City Hall East, on high alert for terrorism. **Surrounded by dozens of televisions and computer terminals, they tracked each blip in public safety, at the ready to respond with state and federal counterparts to protect lives, roads, airports and water supplies. A similar county emergency center also prepared for the worst. Instead of responding to disaster, the centers became staging areas aimed at calming public nerves in the face of what could be a long and uncertain wait.** "No news is good news," Mayor James K. Hahn said as he emerged from a midmorning briefing at the city center, announcing — as he would many times throughout the day — that there were no specific threats against Los Angeles. In fact, officials from the city, county and state spent much of Thursday monitoring their respective fiefdoms, then gathering to announce an all-clear and reiterate their preparedness. Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-war-centers21mar21.1.6461649.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dcalifornia>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

30. *March 24, Washington Post* — **Telecom firms rebuild, beef up security.** Since the terrorist attacks in New York and at the Pentagon crippled communications networks along the East Coast, telecommunications companies have invested heavily to fortify their facilities. All over the country, **telecommunications companies have added fiber-optic lines, increased their ability to reroute traffic and beefed up their security in response to lessons learned in the September 2001 attacks.** Jeffrey M. Goldthorp, chief of network technology at the Federal Communications Commission, has been working with the nation's leading telecommunications companies for the past year. He was reluctant to discuss specifics but did point to one unnamed company that he said recently moved a huge database to a hardened underground shelter. The database will be a key resource in case the network, or any section of it, needs to be rebuilt. **The FCC also recently orchestrated a series of "mutual aid" contracts between companies that allow them to work together immediately after a disaster without having to negotiate costs or other legal issues.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A653-2003Mar20.html?referrer=email>

31. *March 20, SecurityFocus* — **Hackers claim NSA breach.** Hackers claim to have compromised a computer at the National Security Agency (NSA). However, instead of obtaining a cache of highly-classified documents about the NSA's global surveillance work, **the purported hackers mostly found biographies of agency personnel, and a handful of routine, correspondences between NSA spokespersons and media outlets.** Journalist and NSA expert James Bamford says **the apparent breach probably isn't a threat to national security. "I certainly don't think that it's acceptable that even unclassified computers can be hacked into there, but it doesn't sound like they've gotten beyond the non-classified computers in public affairs,"** said Bamford. An e-mail message sent to the hackers' address in Switzerland was not immediately answered Thursday. The group signed their message "Nescafé Open Up", the slogan of an ad campaign for flavored instant-coffee. **The hackers' motives are unknown at this time.**

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/3291>

32. *March 20, National Journal's Technology Daily* — **Ridge: Cybersecurity at 'heart' of department's work.** Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Tom Ridge said on Thursday that his department will work as hard to address threats to the Internet as it does to address physical threats. **"We will not distinguish between physical and cyber in this new unit,"** Ridge told the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee in a hearing on the fiscal 2004 budget. **Ridge said that he understands a cyber attack could affect every aspect of the U.S. economy and government** and that preventing such an attack is "at the very heart" of his department's duties. He also said that **since last month, the department has been "actively engaged" in talks about the nation's cyber infrastructure with the private sector and other groups** "because they have their own list of what the vulnerabilities are." **Much rests on the vulnerability assessments being done on critical infrastructures,** he said. Ridge said the department's chief information officer is developing plans for a technology framework that would enable Homeland Security to share information both within and outside the department. **A strategic plan to let the department's various agencies access terrorist watch lists also is being prepared,** he said.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0303/032003td1.htm>

33. *March 20, InternetWeek* — **War information demand slows U.S. military, Arab, alternative news sites.** The Arab news site Al Jazeera, U.S. military sites, and a U.S. alternative press site were among those suffering massive slowdowns and outages in the first day of the war in Iraq, according to Web performance measurement firm Keynote Systems. **The slowdowns and outages were presumed to be due to overwhelming demand for access to information, rather than hacker attacks,** said Eric Siegel, principle Internet consultant for Keynote. Likewise, British government sites are seeing significant slowdowns and outages. Siegel speculated that **the entire online Arab world is turning to Al Jazeera for news, whereas the West has a diversity of sources online.**

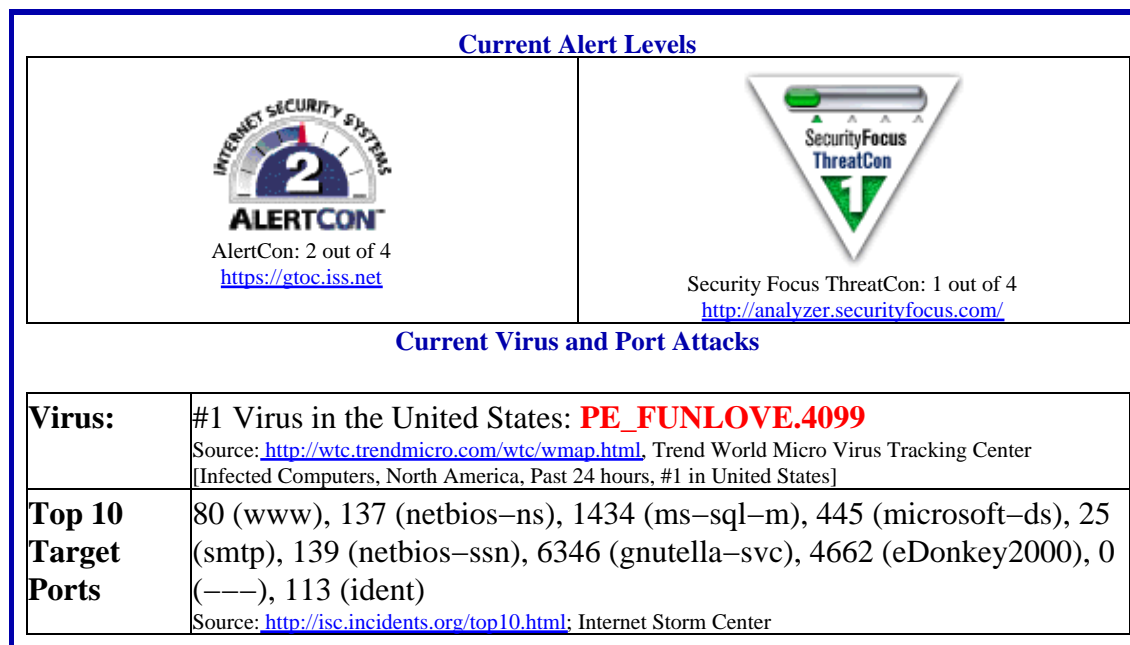
Source: <http://www.internetweek.com/webDev/showArticle.jhtml?article ID=7900136>

34. *March 19, SecurityFocus* — **Point, click, get root on Yahoo.** A simple scan for unpublished websites within Yahoo's Internet address space gave an unemployed IT worker access to

several of the portal company's internal systems, including root access inside the company firewall, the worker says. Yahoo URLs provided by the man routed to what appeared to be two unprotected Web-based remote administration consoles for company disk and file storage systems. In a written statement, **Yahoo spokesperson Mary Osako acknowledged that the servers shouldn't have been exposed to the Internet, and said the company closed off access on Wednesday.** "No user data was compromised," Osako wrote. The IT worker, who asked to remain anonymous, confirmed Yahoo's statement.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/3249>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

35. *March 23, Washington Post* — **Al Qaeda near biological, chemical arms production. Al Qaeda leaders, long known to covet biological and chemical weapons, have reached at least the threshold of production and may already have manufactured some of them, according to a newly obtained cache of documentary evidence and interrogations recently conducted by the U.S. government.** Three people with access to written reports said the emerging picture depicts the al Qaeda biochemical weapons program as considerably more advanced than U.S. analysts knew. The picture continues to sharpen daily, one official said, because translation and analysis of the documents continues, and because the operative captured with them began divulging meaningful information about production plans only this week. Authorized government spokesmen declined to discuss the subject, saying it is classified. **Leaders at the top of al Qaeda's hierarchy, the evidence shows, completed plans and obtained the materials required to manufacture two biological toxins -- botulinum and salmonella -- and the chemical poison cyanide. They are also close to a feasible production plan for anthrax, a far more lethal weapon, which kills 90 percent of untreated victims if spread by**

inhalation and as many as 75 percent of those treated when the first symptoms become evident. Among the documents seized was a direction to purchase bacillus anthracis, the bacterium that causes anthrax disease.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A12187-2003Mar 22.html>

36. *March 23, Boston Globe* — **Protesters, war backers rally across the nation.** Tens of thousands of protesters filled Broadway from midtown Manhattan to Greenwich Village on Saturday in a boisterous demonstration that drew a cross section of Americans opposed to the war in Iraq. Parents pushing baby strollers chanted antiwar slogans alongside young people wearing headbands and grandmothers who held aloft paper doves. **In San Francisco, Los Angeles, Washington, and other cities across the country, tens of thousands more marched to protest the US-led military campaign. In Chicago, antiwar protesters traded jeers with people rallying to support the troops. In Atlanta, a few hundred people marched on the offices of CNN, echoing protesters in other cities angered by what they say is the media's uncritical packaging of the war.** Organizers from United for Peace and Justice estimated that 200,000 to 250,000 people turned out for yesterday's march in Manhattan, which began at noon between Herald Square and Times Square. The 30 blocks to Washington Square Park, the dispersal point, were filled for three hours.

Source: http://www.boston.com/dailyglobe2/082/nation/Protesters_war_backers_rally_across_the_nation+.shtml

37. *March 21, Associated Press* — **Life sentence for failed spy.** A retired Air Force master sergeant was sentenced to life in prison without parole on Thursday for offering to sell intelligence secrets to Iraq and China. **Judge Gerald Bruce Lee of Federal District Court imposed the sentence, which was brokered by prosecutors and by lawyers for the defendant, Brian P. Regan. In the agreement, the government promised not to prosecute Regan's wife, Anette, and allowed her to keep part of Mr. Regan's military pension. Regan also agreed to tell the government about any classified information he might have given to other people or countries and to submit to lie detector tests. His wife also agreed to cooperate.** Regan, 40, was convicted last month on two counts of attempted espionage and a charge of gathering national defense information. He was acquitted of trying to spy for Libya. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/21/national/21SPY.html>

38. *March 21, New York Times* — **French say poison find probably thwarted terror attack.** The French authorities said today that the discovery on Monday of a small quantity of the deadly toxin ricin at a Paris train station probably thwarted a terrorist attack by Islamic militants. But they said they possessed no proof. The conclusion was drawn from evidence pointing to contacts between groups of militants in France and Britain, they said, where ricin was discovered in January during an antiterrorist sweep in London. **Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy, speaking on French radio, said the police also found acetone and ethanol at the Gare de Lyon, where the ricin was found during a routine check of baggage lockers. "A mixture of the three can make an extremely nasty poison,"** he said, adding that acetone and ethanol could also serve with castor beans to produce ricin. Jonathan Stevenson, a terrorism expert at the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London, said the discovery of ricin on both sides of the Channel was significant.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/03/21/international/worldspecial/2/21CND-PARIS.html?ntemail0>

39. *March 21, BBC* — Norway charges Iraqi-based militant. A Norwegian court has charged the leader of an Iraqi-based militant Islamic group with planning terrorist acts. The man, Mullah Krekar, and his organisation Ansar al-Islam, are suspected to have links to both al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein – something Mullah Krekar himself denies. In a dramatic police operation, Mullah Krekar was arrested at his Oslo home and taken into custody late on Thursday. He had already been charged with violating his refugee status here by returning to northern Iraq as the leader of the militant Islamic group, Ansar al-Islam, on several occasions. Now he has also been charged with planning terrorists acts while living in Norway. This new charge comes after Mullah Krekar earlier this week told Dutch television that Ansar al-Islam could participate in a holy war and launch suicide attacks against American forces in Iraq.

Source: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/2873521.stm

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

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[DHS/IAIP Publications](#) – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

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